

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

S E C R E T AMMAN 002529

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/29/2013

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [KDEM](#) [JO](#)

SUBJECT: JORDANIAN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS SET FOR JUNE 17;  
ISLAMIC ACTION FRONT ANNOUNCES IT WILL RUN

REF: (A) AMMAN 2402 (B) AMMAN 2504

Classified By: Ambassador Edward W. Gnehm. Reasons 1.5 (b,d).

1. (S) In a conversation with the Ambassador on April 25, King Abdullah confirmed that Jordan will hold Parliamentary elections on June 17, as PM Ali Abul Ragheb had publicly affirmed a week earlier (ref A). The King told the Ambassador that although some voices had been advising him to delay the elections once again until the autumn, he was committed to the June 17 date. The King noted that GID Director Sa'ad Kheir has been strongly supportive of the decision to go ahead with the elections, evaluating that the U.S.'s swift and decisive victory in Iraq has left the Jordanian political opposition "off balance" and has increased the odds that pro-government candidates will fare well if elections are held sooner rather than later.

2. (SBU) Subsequent to the Ambassador's conversation with the King, the Islamic Action Front (IAF) -- the political wing of the Muslim Brotherhood and Jordan's only real opposition political party -- announced April 25 that it had decided to end its 1997 boycott of parliamentary elections. In an emergency meeting on April 25, all 120 members of the IAF's Shura Council voted that the Party should participate in the June elections. IAF Shura Council leader Abdul Latif Arabiyat told the Jordan Times that the party decided to review its position on participating in the elections because of political developments and "the dangers facing the entire region." He added "we hope our decision to rescind the boycott will be appreciated and looked at positively by the other side (i.e. the GOJ)." On April 27, the Muslim Brotherhood's 50-member Shura council echoed the IAF's decision by announcing in a statement that the MB had also endorsed participation in the June 17 elections.

-----  
Comment

3. (C) The King's thinking on elections clearly appears to have solidified over the past couple of weeks as the Iraq crisis has subsided. His decision to hold to the June 17 electoral date -- only a few days prior to the just-announced convening of a special session of the World Economic Forum in Jordan (ref B) -- indicates confidence that changed circumstances in the region will enable both elections and the WEF meeting to take place and highlight Jordan's moderate, pro-reform positions.  
GNEHM